

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Congressman Xavier Becerra, and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro participated in a press conference call to discuss soaring health care costs and the urgent need for health insurance reform in our country. The recent news that Anthem Blue Cross plans to increase its rates by as much as 39 percent in California highlights the dramatic increases in health care costs that American families are facing. Without health insurance reform, those prices will continue to skyrocket for families in Orange County and across the country.

“Anthem’s recent decision to spike its insurance rates is a stark reminder of what is at stake in this health care debate,” said Rep. Sanchez. “The unfortunate reality is that without reform, millions of Americans, including nearly 700,000 Anthem customers in California, will have to pay premiums that are rising four times faster than wages. Some might ask how we can afford to focus on health care in the midst of this recession. I think the Anthem case shows that we can’t afford not to. We must fix our health care system in order to truly fix the economy.

“These are the criteria for evaluating the success of health insurance reform: Have we expanded the number of people who are covered? Have we injected competition into an increasingly monopolized health insurance industry? Have we put the brakes on rising costs? I firmly believe that Democrats and Republicans can work together to accomplish these goals, but there has to be a sense of urgency in our actions. The status quo is failing the American people.”

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